

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 17-23 and 26-31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 17 and 26 are amended and claims 11-16, 24, 25 and 32 are canceled. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, on page 51, line 4, through page 52, line 1, and page 56, lines 3-24 of the original specification and in Figs. 2, 3, 10 and 14. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims in view of at least the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10, 17-23 and 26-31 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Office Action alleges that the original disclosure does not provide support for the recitation of "changing a position of the gripping portion to a position not along the constant extrusion direction" recited in claims 1, 17 and 26. Support for this recitation is found, for example, on page 51, line 14, through page 53, line 21, of the original disclosure. This portion discloses a Y-direction movement supporting member 642 and a X-direction movement supporting member 52 connected to a Y-direction driving mechanism 64 and a X-direction driving mechanism 62 (P51:L2-24). The X-direction movement supporting member 52 comprises internally the molding gripping portion 54 having a cross sectional shape for slidably gripping the resin molding 110 (P50:L10-12). The X-direction movement supporting member 52 having the gripping portion 54 is connected to a X-direction driving mechanism 62 by a X-direction driving shaft 624 so that, when the X-direction movement supporting member 52 is driven for rotation by activating a motor M5 constituting the X-direction driving mechanism 62, the position of the gripping portion 54 in the X direction is changed to any of the X direction (P51:L2-8). Any X direction includes a position not along the constant extrusion direction. Because the resin molding 110 passes through the gripping

portion 54, the resin molding is bent. Accordingly, the original disclosure adequately supports the above recitation in claims 1, 17 and 26. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Because claims 26-31 are rejected solely under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, which is overcome by the above, Applicants assert that claims 26-31 are in condition of allowance.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9 and 17-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,982,486 (Otagawa) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,260,395 (Webster). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Office Action acknowledges that Otagawa fails to disclose an axial bending process that is performed by gripping a resin molding in a bending apparatus and changing a position of the gripping portion to a position not along the constant extrusion direction (Office Action, page 4). The Office Action alleges that Webster cures Otagawa's deficiency. However, Webster fails to disclose and would not have rendered obvious "controlling a radius of curvature of a bend in the resin molding in an axial bending process for the resin molding when the resin molding passes through the gripping portion by changing a position of the gripping portion to a position not along the constant extrusion direction," as recited in claims 1 and 17.

Rather, Webster discloses that a second step of a method of bending and cutting a tubing workpiece T includes pressing a portion of a bend arm 49 against the tubing workpiece T, opposite a bend die 22, and radially moving the bend arm 49 about the bend die 22's pivot axis 24 (C7:L29-33). Webster further discloses that the bend die 22 can include several parallel curved recesses of different diameters or a single curved recess that is interchangeable (C4:L10-18).

Webster's Fig. 2 illustrates a reciprocally moveable second pressure applicator 50 and tube contacting die 52 in a perpendicular position to the vertical rail member 16. To bend the

workpiece T, Webster's Fig. 3 illustrates that the reciprocally moveable second pressure applicator 50 and tube contacting die 52 move to an approximately forty-five degree angle compared to the vertical rail member 16.

Webster's reciprocally moveable second pressure applicator 50 and tube contacting die 52 cannot reasonably constitute a "gripping portion" nor their movement reasonably constitute changing a position of a "gripping portion" because their movement does not control the radius of curvature of the bend in Webster's workpiece T. Rather, the diameter of the curved recess of Webster's bend die 22 controls the radius of curvature. Because Webster's bend die 22 is stationary and does not change to a position not along the constant extrusion direction, the bend die 22 also cannot reasonably constitute the "gripping portion."

Because Webster's reciprocally moveable second pressure applicator 50, tube contacting die 52 and bend die 22, alone or in combination, cannot reasonably constitute the recited "gripping portion," Webster fails to disclose and would not have rendered obvious "controlling a radius of curvature of a bend in the resin molding in an axial bending process for the resin molding when the resin molding passes through the gripping portion by changing a position of the gripping portion to a position not along the constant extrusion direction," as recited in claims 1 and 17. Accordingly, Webster fails to cure the deficiency of Otagawa and claims 1 and 17 are patentable over the applied references.

Further regarding claim 17, the Office Action alleges that Otagawa discloses that a first body may be formed followed by passing the first body through an extrusion die, resulting in the first body being bent (Office Action, page 6). The Office Action further alleges that it would have been obvious that the selection of any order of these steps could be effective, absent a showing of unexpected results. *Id.* The Office Action alleges that Otagawa's bent stainless steel sheet could be passed through the extrusion die to have a resin part formed on it in the same manner that an uncut sheet could be, and that a stainless steel

sheet with the resin body already molded to it could be bent in the same way as a sheet without the resin molded on to it could. *Id.*

The Office Action fails to consider that a workpiece that is bent in a longitudinal direction cannot pass through an extrusion die unless the workpiece is bent by a constant radius of curvature and the extrusion die has a passage hole with the same radius of curvature. Thus the order of steps is not necessarily interchangeable and because Otagawa fails to disclose that the workpiece has a constant radius of curvature or that the extrusion die has a passage hole with the same radius of curvature, the above allegation regarding claim 17 in the Office Action is incorrect. Combined with the amendment discussed above, claim 17 is even further distinguished over the applied references.

Claims 2-4, 6, 8, 9 and 18-22 are also patentable over the applied references for at least the same reasons, as well as for the additional features the claims recite. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

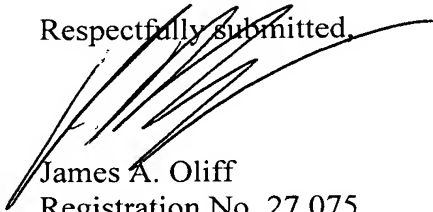
The Office Action rejects claims 10 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Otagawa in view of Webster and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,739,599 (Uchimura). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

This rejection is based on the allegation that Otagawa in view of Webster discloses or would have rendered obvious all of the features of claims 1 and 17. Because, as discussed above, Otagawa in view of Webster does not disclose and would not have rendered obvious all of the features of claims 1 and 17, the rejection is improper. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

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